



The influence of global warming on natural disasters and their public health outcomes

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Abstract:

With a documented increase in average global surface temperatures of 0.6 degrees C since 1975, Earth now appears to be warming due to a variety of climatic effects, most notably the cascading effects of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activities. There remains, however, no universal agreement on how rapidly, regionally, or asymmetrically the planet will warm or on the true impact of global warming on natural disasters and public health outcomes. Most reports to date of the public health impact of global warming have been anecdotal and retrospective in design and have focused on the increase in heat-stroke deaths following heat waves and on outbreaks of airborne and arthropod-borne diseases following tropical rains and flooding that resulted from fluctuations in ocean temperatures. The effects of global warming on rainfall and drought, tropical cyclone and tsunami activity, and tectonic and volcanic activity will have far-reaching public health effects not only on environmentally associated disease outbreaks but also on global food supplies and population movements. As a result of these and other recognized associations between climate change and public health consequences, many of which have been confounded by deficiencies in public health infrastructure and scientific debates over whether climate changes are spawned by atmospheric cycles or anthropogenic influences, the active responses to progressive climate change must include combinations of economic, environmental, legal, regulatory, and, most importantly, public health measures.

Source: Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

Resource Description

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Policymaker

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Human Conflict/Displacement, Precipitation, Temperature

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Hurricanes/Cyclones

Food/Water Security: Food Access/Distribution

Geographic Feature: ☐

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

Geographic Location: ☐

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Health Impact: ☐

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

General Health Impact

Mitigation/Adaptation: ☐

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Resource Type: ☐

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: ☐

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified